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terest, written expressly for this use. Thus we have an article on "Insanity, and Hospitals for the Insane," by Pliny Earle, M. D.; one on "Iron-clad War Vessels," by A. L. Holley; one on "Petroleum Oil." Under the titles of the several States, we have not only names and statistics, but detailed descriptions of whatever is of special interest in their institutions or condition. We have also a list of the civil and military functionaries, and a *résumé* of the finances of the so-called Confederate States, and numerous statistics and tables relating to the principal European countries and the world at large.

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31. — *An American Dictionary of the English Language; exhibiting the Origin, Pronunciation, and Definitions of Words.* By NOAH WEBSTER, LL. D. Abridged from the Quarto Edition of the Author. *To which is added a Synopsis of Words differently pronounced by different Orthoepists.* Revised and enlarged by CHAUNCEY A. GOODRICH, Professor in Yale College. *With Synonyms, Pronouncing Vocabularies of Scripture, Classical, and Geographical Names, and an Appendix of over 10,000 New Words.* Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1863. 8vo. pp. 1319.

THE last *and* in the title of this book denotes *to wit*; for there is no Appendix other than the "Vocabularies" previously named. "Added" in this title means *prefixed*, though we believe that it is generally employed in the sense of *affixed*. The "Synonyms" specified are not a separate table, nor do they indicate one of the *veridical* characteristics of the Dictionary. What is meant by this announcement is, that at the close of the series of definitions given to a word there is sometimes appended, under the heading "SYN.," a list of words that are not synonymous with it, but with no specification of the points in which they differ. For instance, under CUSTOM we have "SYN. Habit; manner, fashion, prescription," each of which differs considerably in signification from *custom*. We notice in the columns of this Dictionary an advanced stage of return from the peculiarities of Webster's orthography; and in no other respect than his orthography can we find fault with Webster, unless it be now and then with his etymological whims, which are more than balanced by instances of rare etymological *clairvoyance*. In the definition of words in common use, in the nice discrimination of shades of meaning through which the capacities of language are opened for the speaker and writer, we have long regarded Webster's Dictionary as second to none; in the definition of scientific and technical terms Worcester's has the advantage. The edition of Webster now before

us, notwithstanding our cavils at the title-page, seems to us in every aspect convenient and valuable. By no means heavy or clumsy, though a thick octavo, it is hardly inferior in utility to the quarto, from which it is condensed in form, rather than abridged in substance. In the hands of the present publishers it can hardly fail to secure extensive circulation and favor.

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32. — *The Pioneer Boy, and How he became President.* By WILLIAM M. THAYER, Author of "The Bobbin Boy," "The Printer Boy," "The Poor Boy and Merchant Prince," "Working and Winning," "Tales from Genesis, in Two Volumes," etc. Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1863. 24mo. pp. 310.

THIS story is written especially for boys, and is accordingly obstructed once in a while in its flow by a mass of didactic matter; but every boy-reader of moderate skill knows how to skip such portions of an otherwise interesting book, and older readers can do the same even more easily. Availing ourselves of this privilege, we read the book at a sitting, the very evening it came into our hands, and we gladly take advantage of the demand for "more copy to make even work," to recommend it to any who may be influenced by our judgment, and to aid, so far as we can, in the circulation of a work which, beyond its importance as an authentic biography, has a peculiar timeliness at the present moment. We hardly need say that the "Pioneer Boy," whose early life is here portrayed, is Abraham Lincoln, and that, beyond the really excellent character of his parents, (neither of whom could write, while his father could not read,) he was wholly destitute of advantages and privileges of every kind, brought up in the severest poverty, in a floorless log-cabin with a single apartment, and in neighborhoods where there was no person or object of any description to stimulate his ambition or even to bring within his cognizance other than the rudest forms of civilized life. Indeed, among the native American backwoodsmen of a Free State, he could hardly have had a home so utterly destitute of the means of mental cultivation; but his parents belonged to the "white trash" of Kentucky, and it may be in the counsels of Providence to emancipate those victims of slavery under the leadership of their born brother. The whole narrative of his early days conciliates for him our respect and confidence, while it explains and removes much that might otherwise convey an unfavorable impression. It is certain that only masterly ability, sterling integrity, and the utmost strenuousness of aim and purpose, could have led him through the successive stages of his elevation to the place where he now stands; and we are